REMARKS

This paper is in response to the final Office Action mailed December 15, 2006. Claims 23-24 are pending upon entry of this paper.

Response to Rejection of Claims 23-24

Claim 23 is directed toward a desiccant cartridge having a cap member with a centrally disposed aperture therein. By use of the combination of cap and docking piece as now claimed, the combination can be utilized in conjunction with air refrigeration canisters and the like having a radially offset fluid flow tube. These types of canisters may be seen, for example, in Fig. 9 of the specification. Thus, in accordance with the invention, a desiccant cartridge of the type having a centrally disposed fluid flow tube therein can be utilized in conjunction with canisters having radially offset type fluid flow conduits or tubes. The inventive combination comprises a cap for providing closure over the cartridge. The cap has a centrally disposed first aperture therein for communication with the desiccant cartridge. A docking piece is detachably engaged in a radially extending slot formed along the surface of the cap. The docking piece comprises a housing with a second aperture therein with the second aperture being radially offset from the centrally disposed aperture in the cap. The second aperture communicates with the first aperture through the housing. More particularly, claim 23, is directed to a combination in a desiccant cartridge comprising, *inter alia*:

> said cap comprising a generally circular configuration with a central axis extending therethrough and a first aperture in said cap coaxial with said central axis for communication with said desiccant cartridge, said cap having a recess in the form of a slot formed atop a surface of said cap and extending radially outwardly along said surface from said central axis, said docking piece having a housing detachably engaged in said slot, said housing further comprising a second aperture therein radially spaced from said first aperture and in communication with said first aperture through said housing.

Claim 23 in the application stands rejected as being anticipated by Trapp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,983,516). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 23 is novel and

patentable over the references of record, and particularly over Trapp et al., because the cited art does not show or suggest a cap having a generally circular configuration with a central axis extending therethrough and a first aperture in the cap coaxial with the central axis for communication with a desiccant cartridge as required by claim 23. Additionally, the cited art does not show or suggest a cap having a recess in the form of a slot formed atop a surface of the cap and extending radially outwardly along the surface from the central axis, the docking piece having a housing detachably engaged in the slot, the housing further comprising a second aperture therein radially spaced from said first aperture and in communication with the first aperture through the housing as required by claim 23.

Trapp et al. discloses a shuttle valve mechanism for controlling the flow of compressed air from a twin tower compressed air cleaning and drying system. Trapp's cleaning and drying system includes two desiccant chambers, a control system and a cover member into which the shuttle valve mechanism has been incorporated. Secured atop the chambers, the single cover member defines an outlet port, first and second passages, and a horizontal chamber between the passages in which the shuttle valve can be moved reciprocatingly. The horizontal chamber has two ends, a first interconnected to the first desiccant chamber by the first passage and a second interconnected to the second desiccant chamber by the second passage. The outlet port of the dryer extends from the horizontal chamber. The shuttle valve selects which chamber is on-line and also directs a small purging flow of air back through the off-line chamber.

Trapp et al. provides no hint or suggestion of a generally circular cap with a central axis extending therethrough and a first aperture in the cap coaxial with the central axis for communication with a desiccant cartridge. In this regard, it is noted that the present invention facilitates the ability to use a desiccant cartridge of the type having a centrally disposed fluid flow tube therein in conjunction with a canister having a radially offset type fluid flow conduit. Therefore, providing a cap having a first aperture coaxial with its central axis is an essential feature of the present invention, and this feature is completely absent from the system disclosed in Trapp et al. Neither of the apertures leading to the desiccant cartridges is coaxial with the central axis of the cap. Furthermore, Trapp et al. contains no hint or suggestion as to the provision of a radially extending slot formed in the surface of the cap that extends outwardly from the central axis. This slot readily receives the docking piece that functions as an adapter for

directing the flow of air from the second aperture that is radially spaced from the central aperture (and therefore capable of being aligned with the offset conduit as shown in FIG. 9) and the first aperture that is coaxial with the central aperture. Trapp et al. is therefore deficient in the provision of a docking piece comprising a housing that directs air from the second aperture spaced from the central axis to the first aperture coaxial with the central axis as set forth in claim 23.

Accordingly, claim 23 is not anticipated by or made obvious by the cited reference and favorable consideration of claim 23 is respectfully requested. Claim 24, depending from claim 23, is submitted as patentable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons.

Response to Double Patenting Rejection of Claims 23-24

The claims of the instant application also stand rejected as allegedly constituting double patenting over Hayes et al. 6,692,556 in view of Line 2,758,719. In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the instant application are patentably distinct from the claims in the aforementioned Hayes et al. patent. As recognized by the Examiner, the claims of the Hayes et al. patent do not contain the limitation of a docking piece having a housing detachably engaged in a slot. Further, the claims of the Hayes et al. patent do not include the radially disposed slot formed along the cap surface or the snapping fit of the docking housing into the elongated radially extending slot member that is formed in the cap. These features absent from the claims of the Hayes et al. patent form the very essence of the inventive concept to which the claims of the present application are directed. The Line '719 patent has been carefully considered and nowhere can one find therein any hint or suggestion as to the provision of a docking piece as herein recited for detachable engagement with the cap portion comprising a housing that directs air from the second aperture spaced from the central axis to a first aperture coaxial with the central axis as set forth in claim 23. Therefore, the Line patent cannot cure the deficiencies of the Hayes et al. reference. Accordingly, the claims in the instant application define inventions that are not obvious variations of the inventions claimed in the Hayes et al. '556 patent. See MPEP §804 II B1.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims at bar define patentable subject matter in full compliance with patent statutes. The issuance of a Notice of Allowance is accordingly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if, during the course of reconsideration of this matter, any question or comment should arise.

Respectfully submitted,
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